

Estess leaves his mark of excellence on JSC

By Kendra Ceule

After having spent more than a year as Acting Director of JSC, Roy Estess is returning home to Mississippi to resume his duties as Director of the John C. Stennis Space Center.

"I'm going to miss him," said Deputy Director Randy Stone. "He's become a very good friend."

Described by Stone as a "perfect gentleman who is tough when he needs to be," Estess has had an impressive career with NASA. His service spans 33 years and has taken him from Mississippi to Washington D.C. to Houston and back.

In 1980, he was named Stennis' Deputy Director, becoming its Director in 1989. Estess then fulfilled a temporary assignment to NASA Headquarters from 1992-93, serving as a special assistant to two NASA Administrators. He then returned to Stennis before his arrival at JSC in February 2001.

Stone, who has worked with Estess extensively, said he does not think it has been difficult for Estess to work in so many different environments.

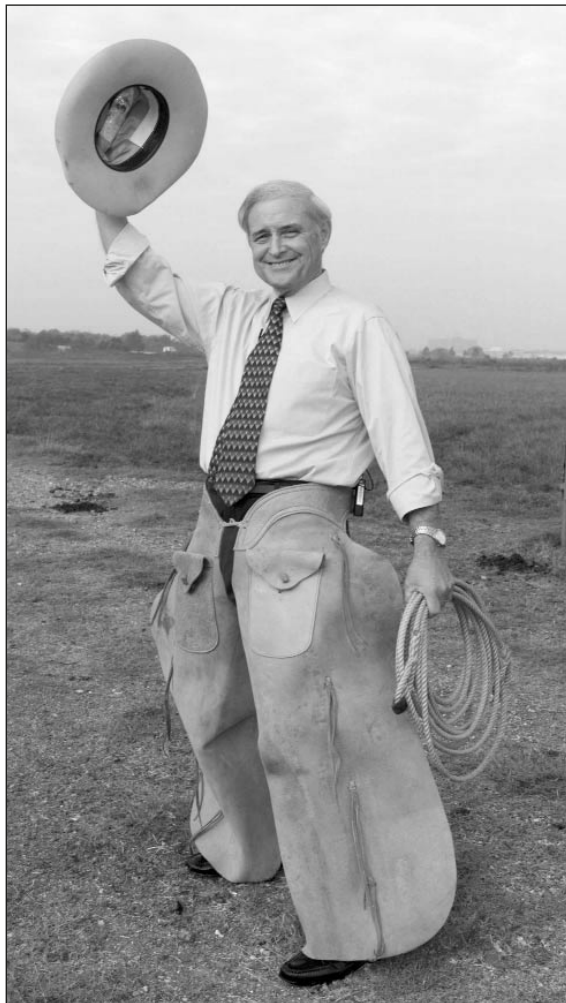
"He captures everyone's respect immediately wherever he goes," Stone said. "And most of the senior staff at JSC have known him over the years through his work at Headquarters and at Stennis. He's been highly respected for a long time."

So respected, in fact, that Estess has received multiple accolades for his federal service. It is telling that his awards not only include the Presidential Distinguished Service award, which he received twice, but also the Alumni Fellow of Mississippi State University.

According to Dan Carpenter, Director of Public Affairs, Estess is adept at balancing his leadership roles with a willingness to listen to suggestions from others.

"He is very open to input and ideas from staff," Carpenter said, "and yet is very capable of making the decisions that need to be made."

Sue Rainwater, Branch Chief of Mechanical Boosters Maintenance Systems, said Estess did an effective job of committing himself to his new post even though he knew it was temporary. "He never acted like a short-timer," she said. ❖



Well-respected Howell named JSC Center Director



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Jefferson Davis Howell, Jr., has been named Director of the Johnson Space Center and assumed his duties this month. Howell, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant General, is only the eighth person to serve as Director in the Center's 40-year history.

"Gen. Howell is a true patriot and leader with more than three decades of executive management and financial management experience," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. "Throughout his military and civilian careers, Jeff has been a leader, an innovator and a team builder. He's the right person to lead the NASA Center that's the cornerstone of our human space flight operations."

Howell served as Senior Vice President and Program Manager for the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance contract at JSC. The contract focuses

on safety and mission assurance for the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs. He was employed by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in economics at the University of Texas.

Howell had been with SAIC since February 1999, when he first served as Deputy Program Manager of the safety contract. He was named Program Manager in August 1999. Howell managed more than 525 people in support of a contract focused on safety and mission assurance in support of the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs.

"This is a tremendous honor," Howell said. "The people who work at the Johnson Space Center are among the best and brightest in our industry with a history of incredible accomplishment. As we face the challenges of the upcoming year, we will work together, maintaining our commitment to safety and bringing the benefits of space home to the people of Earth."

He went on to say, "I also want to congratulate Roy Estess on the excellent job he has done here over the past year and thank him for his dedication to NASA." ❖